

very little shyness but instead a great deal of curiosity, and if the observer is still they will come very close to him and sing. On June 26, 1915, Dr. T. S. Roberts and I saw a female with her bill full of food in the spruce swamp north of Cambridge.

12. **Oporornis philadelphia.** MOURNING WARBLER.—A few may be seen and heard singing here in summer in the second growth of rich woods. This species like the last is very tame while singing and chooses some dead limb in full view from which to deliver its loud song. May to September.

13. **Certhia familiaris americana.** BROWN CREEPER.—Permanent resident. A few winter in the tamarack and spruce woods where they are protected from cold winds. In the heavily wooded bottomlands by "Lost River" I saw a pair on June 11, 1915. The scaly bark which was peeling off the old soft maples gave suitable nesting sites and the birds' anxious call-notes indicated that they had a nest near by.

14. **Regulus satrapa satrapa.** GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET.—Last winter (1914-1915), this bird was found to be quite common throughout the cold months in the pine and spruce woods, where its penetrating "ti-ti" betrayed its presence for some distance through the clear, frosty air. It was supposed to be very rare and sporadic in southern Minnesota in winter.

15. **Hylocichla guttata pallasi.** HERMIT THRUSH.—In the extensive pine woods bordering tamarack swamps northeast of Grandy, at least three Hermit Thrushes were heard singing this summer (1915) whenever I visited that locality. This is the most southern summer record thus far for Minnesota.—LAWRENCE L. LÖFSTRÖM, *Cambridge, Minn.*

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## RECENT LITERATURE.

**Dall's Biography of Baird.**<sup>1</sup>—Twenty-seven years have elapsed since the death of Prof. Baird, and while numerous tributes to his scientific attainments and achievements have been published, no biography at all commensurate with his position in the development of science in America, has hitherto appeared. This was undoubtedly due to the fact, well known to Prof. Baird's friends, that his daughter Miss Lucy Hunter Baird was engaged upon such a work with the aid of Prof. G. Browne Goode, assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution during her father's incumbency as secretary. Prof. Goode's death and the recurrent illness and ultimate

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<sup>1</sup> Spencer | Fullerton Baird | A Biography | Including Selections from his Correspondence | with Audubon, Agassiz, Dana, and others | By | William Healey Dall, A.M., D.Sc. | with nineteen illustrations | [vignette] | Philadelphia & London | J. B. Lippincott Company | 1915. Svo. pp. i-xvi + 1-462. \$3.50 net.

death of Miss Baird hindered the progress of the work, but a provision of Miss Baird's will arranged for its completion and publication and her executor has displayed admirable judgment in selecting for the task Dr. Wm. H. Dall, long time associate and friend of Prof. Baird and who, to use his own expression, was personally familiar with most of the occurrences of the last twenty years of Prof. Baird's life.

Miss Baird's contribution to the biography is considerable; consisting of her personal recollections of various incidents and periods in her father's life, together with matter obtained from other members of the family or friends covering earlier events in his career. The biographer had also the neatly bound volumes of correspondence which Prof. Baird had carefully preserved and which comprised letters from almost every prominent American scientific man of the period, as well as of many distinguished in other fields of learning. Baird's own letters to his brother William and to several other correspondents were also available as well as his journal.

From such rich material it was possible to construct a virtual autobiography with contemporaneous discussion of the interests and activities of the subject, and this Dr. Dall has done, welding together his materials in a masterly way, interpolating the original letters with excellent judgment and producing not only a splendid exploitation of the life of the naturalist, but a volume of absorbing interest to the reader, whether he be scientist or layman. We feel sure moreover that the one who would appreciate the labors of the author, more perhaps than can any one else, would have been the devoted daughter of the great naturalist to whom the volume is inscribed.

Prof. Baird's position in American scientific circles was unique. No other naturalist was probably acquainted with such a large number of scientific men or held in more universal esteem. His personal qualities were such as endeared him to all with whom he came in contact, and the generous cordiality and affection of his correspondents is reflected in many of the published letters. His influence upon American scientific development was of the utmost importance. From his early youth the idea of amassing specimens was ever foremost in his mind, first as a private collection, then as a great government museum, and as we turn the pages of the biography his selection as Assistant Secretary and then as Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution appears simply a matter of course, so perfectly was the man fitted for the position. In training his scholars in the College at Carlisle, where he was a professor, in methods of collecting specimens, and later in furnishing more elaborate instructions and outfits to the young naturalists who came to the Smithsonian, to army officers and to the staff of the Government surveys, he started a sort of endless chain which reached far into the future producing collectors and collections increasingly skilled and valuable as years went on.

Through the entire volume one is impressed with the tireless energy of the man, collecting and studying birds, fishes, mammals, reptiles, fossils, minerals and plants; preparing specimens for exchange, keeping up an

extensive correspondence and encouraging others to collect for him besides mastering language after language even to Danish and Italian, and reading all the scientific works upon which he could lay his hands.

The community of interest between Spencer F. Baird and his elder brother William, as shown in their correspondence, at once attracts the sympathy of the reader, and the generosity of the older brother when he found himself able to extend financial assistance to the younger to aid his advance in a field which he himself had been forced to abandon, is very touching.

The correspondence with Audubon is extremely interesting, forming, as it were, the connecting link between the leading figure of one epoch of American Ornithology and that of the next. Also the numerous exchanges of letters with John Cassin especially those of Christmas, 1853, wherein they reckoned the number of years that they had been friends and the high value that they placed upon this friendship! Later amid increasing cares we trace Baird's career at Washington, his establishment of the International Scientific Exchange, the development of the Museum and the fatherly interest in the many young naturalists who made the Smithsonian the centre of their activities and organized the Megatherium Club.

Finally the development of the Fish Commission and its numerous activities. But it is useless to try to present a synopsis of such a life; one must read it in its entirety, and suffice it to say that every ornithologist — indeed every scientific man — should read this biography. It is instructive in its mass of historical details, inspiring in the example that it sets and the possibilities that it opens up, and fascinating as a piece of literature. The illustrations are good and well selected, and the book is in every way a credit to both author and publisher.— W. S.

**Baynes' 'Wild Bird Guests.'**<sup>1</sup> — When interest in the preservation of wild birds first developed in this country, our efforts were almost entirely directed to stopping their killing, and to keep all disturbing agencies away from their haunts. Of late years however this work has advanced along quite different lines and it has been shown that it is possible not only to make the birds' haunts more suitable for their needs but also to attract birds to places where they were almost or quite unknown before. In the fore front of this movement Mr. Ernest Harold Baynes has been the most conspicuous figure, and in the volume before us he tells of his methods and results, placing before a larger audience the facts that are familiar to the many who have heard his lectures or have been associated with him in 'bird club' work.

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<sup>1</sup> *Wild Bird Guests. How to Entertain Them. With Chapters on the Destruction of Birds, their Economic and Æsthetic Values, Suggestions for Dealing with their Enemies, and on the Organization and Management of Bird Clubs.* By Ernest Harold Baynes. With 50 photogravure illustrations from photographs. New York. E. P. Dutton & Company, 1915. Svo. pp. i-xviii + 1-326. \$2 net.